03AB002/ALBRP323US

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 6 lines 29to page 7 line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Interface 150 permits communication between devices over power lines. An interface 150 is associated with each device that desires to utilize power lines for communication purposes. Interface 150 can send messages to other devices by generating signals of differing frequencies than that utilized by power and introducing them onto the device's power line. Other devices utilizing an interface 150 can subsequently receive and decode the message over [[its]] their power [[line]] lines. A variety of methods can be employed to send and receive messages over electrical wires including but not limited to frequency key-shifting and orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing with forward error correction. Furthermore, although interfaces 150 are depicted as being included within each device according to one aspect of the present invention they can also be a separate unit. Accordingly, a power line can be connected to an interface 150 and the data communications connection can be made from interface 150 to particular devices via a serial port, parallel port, Ethernet connection, USB (Universal Serial Bus), FireWire, or the like.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7 lines 13 to page 8 line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Turning briefly to Fig. 2, an exemplary interface 150 is illustrated in accordance with an aspect of the present invention. Interface 150 includes filter 210, demodulator 220, address component 230 and modulator 240. Interface 150 receives a power line signal from a power source (not shown). The power signal is input into filter 210 (e.g., band pass filter). Filter 210 thereafter retrieves a communication signal by separating the power signal from the communications signal. For example, power can be transmitted at a low frequency with respect to higher frequency communication data. Accordingly, the

filter 210 could separate high and low frequencies outputting the high frequency to [[modulator]] demodulator 220 and providing the low frequencies to the device as power. The communications output of filter 210 is an analog signal. Demodulator 220 can subsequently receive the analog signal and convert the [[analogy]] analog signal to a digital signal. The digital signal is then received by the address component 230. Address component 230, inter alia, houses unique identifying indicia associated with the interface 150 and its related device. Exemplary indicia can include but are not limited to a device serial number and/or a network identification code or number. Such indicia allow the interface 150 and the device associated therewith to be uniquely identified in a power line network environment. Messages sent by devices in a power line network can contain header information attached to the message. Header information can disclose the address (e.g., serial number, network code) of the device intended to receive the message. Address component 230 can read header data to retrieve the destination address. Address component can thereafter compare the destination address with its own address. If the addresses are the same the message was meant to be delivered to the particular device, so the message is passed on to a connected device. If, however, the addresses do not match the message can be discarded. In addition to outputting messages, the address component can also receive them. When address component receives the messages to be sent it can create a header attached to the message into which it writes the destination address and optionally the address of the sending or source device. This new message with network information contained therein can then be utilized as input to modulator 240. Modulator 240 thereafter can convert the digital message into an analog signal of a particular frequency and add the message to the power signal. It is to be appreciated that for purposes of understanding what has been presented is a much simplified description of the interface 150. The scope of the subject invention however is not so limited. The interface can also, for example, contain complex circuitry for dealing with impedance variations, power surges, and signal noise. In addition circuitry can be embedded in interface 150 to improve the quality of the power signal to devices connected thereto. Furthermore, the address component and its associated functionality need not be provided by interface itself. Such functionality can be provided by a device component and thereafter input to the interface 150.